

### Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-14 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 8 being independent. Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 10-14 have been amended herein.

The drawings were objected to for not including reference numeral 4, which was used in the specification to describe the recording medium. In response, the specification has been revised to avoid usage of reference numeral 4. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are requested.

The disclosure was objected to for a minor spelling error. This misspelling has been corrected in paragraph [0008]. In addition, several other minor changes have been made in the specification to improve its form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are also requested.

The specification was objected to for allegedly not providing proper antecedent basis for the term "drive pulses." Without conceding the propriety of this objection, the specification has been amended at paragraph [0070] to provide even clearer antecedent basis for the drive pulses. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification are requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that Claims 7 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication of

allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 8 to include the features of Claims 7 and 15, and have cancelled Claims 7 and 15. Consequently the former claims are seen to be in condition for allowance.


The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 1-6 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled, and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, it is Applicants' current intention to file a divisional application, to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 8. Dependent Claims 2-6 and 9-14 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Williamson  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200  
MAW\mt

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